

and District, and Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Board. Jim has been a tremendous asset to the city of Suisun and Solano County as one of their most experienced and valued mayors. His efforts earned for him the high esteem of his associates and the appreciation of the public.

As Jim Sperring steps down as mayor of Suisun City, I would like to thank him and his wife Pam for their commitment and service to the community of Suisun City. I wish Jim the best of luck in his new leadership role on the Solano County board of supervisors.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
MR. RICHARD W. DURST

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Richard W. Durst, as he assumes the role of president of Baldwin-Wallace College, an extraordinary institution of higher learning in Berea, OH.

Mr. Durst comes to the Cleveland area after 6 years as dean of the College of Arts and Architecture and executive director of University Arts Services at the Pennsylvania State University. He will undoubtedly succeed in continuing to build Baldwin-Wallace's academic recognition, especially in the areas of arts, music, and theater as an international expert in theater set design and the role of the arts in academic training.

His creative work has been featured in group exhibitions in Beijing and Seoul, and he was invited to design the world premiere of The Belltower for the Paris Opera. He also was the codesigner of the United States' exhibit for the 1999 Prague Quadrennial, the world's largest and most prestigious exhibition of theater design and theater architecture.

He brings to B-W demonstrated strengths in curriculum development and review, administration, recruitment and retention planning, fund raising and facilities construction and management. He has already received distinction for receptiveness, presence, and academic stature which has connected with all of the portions of the college community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition and welcome to Mr. Richard W. Durst, an individual with both significant academic accomplishments and a record of community involvement which will positively add to the campus community of Baldwin-Wallace and the Cleveland area in general, and I look forward to working with him to further enrich the College and all elements of higher education.

HONORING BETTY ORTEN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Mrs. Betty Orten, a great Coloradan who passed away on November 24, 2006, the day after a spirited Thanksgiving celebration with her fam-

ily. She demonstrated great leadership and social conscience in civic affairs and will be missed by friends and loved ones.

Betty Orten grew up on military posts as her father's career as an Army officer took his family across the country, overseas, and finally to Colorado. Betty graduated from high school in Colorado Springs and then went on to receive a degree in history and sociology from the University of Colorado. While at the University of Colorado, she met her future husband, Russell Sage Orten. In 1951, they married and made their home in Westminster, Colorado.

After graduation, Betty began a career as a social worker and also became involved in the Democratic Party. She served as a precinct committeewoman, Democratic State vice chairperson, Adams County Democratic chairperson, and Democratic National Committee member. In 1974, after all of her hard-earned experience in social work and politics, she was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives.

Betty served as a representative for four terms, as well as one term as the House caucus chairwoman. Throughout her career, she concentrated on issues concerning the disadvantaged. She focused on dental care for the elderly, help for battered women and displaced homemakers, housing for single-parent families, and child care for single moms.

Those who knew Betty have fond memories and undoubtedly recognize her remarkable impact on them and fellow Coloradans along with Colorado politics. Betty was a role model and an example for women as she took leadership roles and worked tirelessly for the disadvantaged. Betty was always thoughtful, honest, and persuasive in work and politics.

In 1997, I had the privilege to be a representative in the Colorado House of Representatives where inspiring stories of Betty's labors and personality still resound. She was a true pioneer who broke new ground throughout her political career and in her numerous leadership positions.

If the measure of a life well-led is the impact that a person has on others, then Betty's impact is broad and deep. We all owe her a debt of gratitude and respect, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and remembering a life of service while expressing our deepest sympathies for her family's loss.

IN HONOR OF ALFIE TEWFICK
KHALIL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a good friend and great American who passed away tragically on November 18, 2006. Alfie Tewfick Khalil was a native of Egypt who came to this country in the late 1960s. In 1979, Alfie joined the faculty of the Monterey-based Defense Language Institute (DLI) where he taught Arabic to U.S. military personnel. He soon stood out as a leader among the DLI faculty. In 1980, he became a shop steward with AFGE Local 1263, the union representing the DLI faculty. By 1987, he was elected president of Local 1263.

In the post 9-11 world, foreign language is a national security tool. In 2005, General John

Abizaid, Commander of U.S. Central Command, testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, that the "ability to cross the cultural divide is not an Army issue. It is a national issue. We have to be able to deal with the people in the rest of the world as the globe shrinks in terms of communication and problem solving and sharing." DLI plays an indispensable role in moving this defense strategy forward. But DLI can't do it without its faculty. They are native speakers of their mother languages who, like Alfie, come from the distant places all over the globe to help our Nation better defend itself.

Alfie understood this and made the advocacy for DLI faculty and staff his life's work. After my first election to Congress, I learned quickly that there were two people I needed to know at DLI: the commandant, a Colonel so and so who would retire or move on in a year or two, and Alfie, who would always be there. Alfie made his presence felt in so many ways.

One of the best examples of this was his hard work on behalf of "locality pay"—the small salary boost for Federal workers based in particularly high cost areas. Alfie pointed out that Monterey County was, indeed, one of those areas, but that the Federal Government still considered it rural so DLI faculty were paid at much lower rates. Alfie and I worked together for more than 3 years to secure a decision by the Office of Personnel Management that Monterey County-based civil service workers deserved locality pay. This hard work on Alfie's part has helped DLI attract and retain the best language teachers in the world.

Alfie was about more than pay at DLI, however. He was about professionalism. That became clear in the recent fight to keep DLI off the base closure list. Alfie was a never-ending resource to my office and the BRAC Commission. He provided information and statistics on the level of expertise and depth of training of the DLI faculty. With this information it was easy to make the case that DLI could not be recreated anywhere else—that it was dependent on and unique to the talent of the Monterey area. Alfie was a key player in keeping DLI open and in Monterey.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the entire House in sharing our most sincere condolences to Alfie's family both here in the United States and in Egypt and to his extended family of students and colleagues throughout the DLI community.

HONORING NYS ASSEMBLY MA-
JORITY LEADER PAUL A.
TOKASZ

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the career in public service of an outstanding representative of the residents of Western New York—retiring New York State Assembly Majority Leader Paul A. Tokasz.

Paul Tokasz served honorably as Member of Assembly in the 143rd District from the time of his initial election in a special election in 1988 to this very day. Paul will end his service in the State Assembly at the end of this year.